

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU)

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON PRESIDENT
FORD - PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU MEETING, DEC 4

1. I HAD A 45-MINUTE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS NOVEMBER 18 WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER MACEACHEN ON THE FORTHCOMING MEETING
BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU IN
WASHINGTON. (ROBERT FUNSETH, POL COUNSELOR AND GLENN
SHORTLIFFE, DIRECTOR, EXTAFF'S USA DIVISION, WERE
ALSO PRESENT.)

2. I TOLD MACEACHEN THAT WE WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE OF
RECEIVING ANY IDEAS THEY MIGHT HAVE OF THE STRUCTURE OF
THE AGENDA AND OF ANY TOPICS THEY MIGHT BE THINKING OF
RAISING AT THE MEETING. IN TURN, I SAID WE WOULD BE
PLEASED TO BRING TO THEIR ATTENTION ANY SUBJECTS WE WOULD
HAVE IN MIND, AS WE DEVELOP THEM. SPECIFICALLY, I SAID
IF CANADA PLANNED TO MAKE ANY MOVES IN THE DEFENSE FIELD
BEFORE THE MEETING, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING
THAT.

3. MACEACHEN SAID THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH THE
PRIME MINISTER LATER IN THE WEEK, PERHAPS THURSDAY,

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NOVEMBER 21, AND WOULD HOPEFULLY BE BETTER ABLE TO

PROVIDE US WITH A MORE SPECIFIC INDICATION OF THEIR THOUGHTS AT THE END OF THE WEEK. MEANWHILE, THEY HAD BEEN GIVING SOME PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION TO THE VISIT, AND AT THE MOMENT THEY WERE ENVISAGING AN OVERALL DISCUSSION OF US-CANADIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS--AN OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION--CONDUCTED IN A FAIRLY RELAXED ATMOSPHERE. (HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED OR WOULD HAPPEN WHICH WOULD CHANGE THIS ATMOSPHERE.) MORE SPECIFICALLY, HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TALKING ABOUT:

A. RECENT US PROPOSALS ON FOOD AND ENERGY.

B. BEEF, HE SAID WITH A SLIGHT TWINKLE IN HIS EYE, HAS RECENTLY BEEN "FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AS A TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION."

C. TRADE AND ECONOMIC MATTERS.

D. DEFENSE -- HOW SPECIFIC THEY COULD BE AT THAT MOMENT HE WOULD NOT SAY. THEY WERE HAVING A LOOK AT THEIR DEFENSE EXPENDITURES--A LOOK NOT BROUGHT ABOUT BY ANY REASONS OF POLICY REVIEW BUT BECAUSE OF BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS. BUT HE COULD NOT SAY WHEN THIS REVIEW WILL BE COMPLETED.

E. ENVIRONMENT--THERE MAY BE SOME TOPICS THEY MIGHT WANT TO TALK ABOUT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT GLOBAL AND MULTILATERAL TOPICS, MACEACHEN SAID HE THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE TO GET THE BILATERAL QUESTIONS OUT OF THE WAY IN THE AFTERNOON MEETING AND THEN TURN TO WORLD AFFAIRS AT THE DINNER MEETING. POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR THAT OCCASION MIGHT INCLUDE:

A. PRESIDENT'S FORD'S VIEWS AND IMPRESSIONS ON HIS MEETING IN JAPAN, KOREA AND THE USSR.

B. GENERAL THOUGHTS ON FOOD AND ENERGY.
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C. LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE.

5. I SAID I WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO EUROPE AND ABOUT HIS PLANS FOR HIS RETURN VISIT TO WESTERN EUROPE AFTER JANUARY 1.

6. HAVING IN MIND THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S NONCOMMITTAL RESPONSE ON THE CURRENT DOMESTIC DEBATE OVER FUTURE CANADIAN DEFENCE EXPENDITURES, I REITERATED THAT IF CANADA WAS GOING TO DO SOMETHING IN THE DEFENSE FIELD, ESPECIALLY BEFORE THE MEETING, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT IT. I SAID, AS FELLOW NORTH AMERICANS, WE HAVE A DEEP INTEREST IN ANYTHING CANADA MAY BE CONTEMPLATING IN THEIR DEFENSE EFFORT.

7. MACEACHEN MADE NO RESPONSE TO THIS STATEMENT. INSTEAD, HE CHANGED THE SUBJECT AND SAID CANADA LOOKED AT THE VISIT AS PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE TWO LEADERS TO MEET AND BECOME ACQUAINTED. HE SAID THE MEETING WOULD PROVIDE THE PRIME MINISTER THE OCCASION TO PUT FORTH TO PRESIDENT FORD, CANADA'S ATTITUDE ON ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THE VALUE WHICH CANADA ATTACHES TO THIS RELATIONSHIP.

8. I MENTIONED TO MACEACHEN THAT I HAD BEEN CALLING ON SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES RECENTLY--MESSERS. MARCHAND (TRANSPORTATION), WHELAN (AGRICULTURE) AND GILLESPIE (INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE) AS PART OF A LITTLE EFFORT TO TRY TO IRON OUT SOME KINKS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IN ADVANCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT. I SAID THE SUBJECT OF BEEF HAD COME UP IN MY MEETING WITH GILLESPIE. MACEACHEN SAID GILLESPIE HAD TOLD HIM ABOUT THE MEETING AND HIS (GILLESPIE'S) CONCERN OVER THE EFFECT OF THE US ACTIONS ON CANADA. BUT, SAID MACEACHEN, "I AM NOT GOING INTO MY CONCERNS TODAY."

9. IT WAS MY VIEW, I TOLD MACEACHEN, THAT IN THE OVERALL CONTEXT OF OUR RELATIONS, THE CURRENT PROBLEM OVER BEEF WAS NOT SIGNIFICANT WHEN ONE NOTED THAT IT ONLY ACCOUNTED
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FOR ONE-HALF OF 1 PERCENT OF OUR TRADE ACCOUNT.

10. BEFORE THE MEETING SHORTLIFFE SAID THEY WERE THINKING OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN THE AFTERNOON MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT; THE PRIME MINISTER; FOREIGN MINISTER MACEACHEN; AMBASSADOR CADIEUX; AND IVAN HEAD, PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASSISTANT. A FIFTH PERSON MIGHT BE ADDED, DEPENDING ON US VIEWS ON THE COMPOSITION FOR TALKS. PRESUMABLY, THE FIFTH CANADIAN OFFICIAL WOULD BE EITHER JOHN HALSTEAD, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY OR JIM NUTT, DIRECTOR GENERAL, BUREAU OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS. HE SAID THE CANADIANS ASSUMED THAT THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ON BOTH SIDES WOULD BE EXPANDED SLIGHTLY FOR THE WHITE HOUSE WORKING DINNER.

11. AFTER THE MEETING, SHORTLIFFE MENTIONED THAT WE WOULD SOON HAVE TO BE GIVING THOUGHT TO THE CONTENTS OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS. (I HAVE ALREADY COMMUNICATED MY IDEAS ON THIS QUESTION IN A LETTER TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE).

12. COMMENT: AT THIS STAGE, I BELIEVE THERE IS BROAD AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON THE GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING. I WAS STRUCK, HOWEVER, BY THE NON-COMMITTAL STANCE OF MACEACHEN ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CANADIAN DEBATE OVER FUTURE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. HE CHOSE NOT TO PROVIDE EVEN TOKEN ASSURANCE ON THE LEVEL OF FUTURE CANADIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO NORTH AMERICAN DEFENSE AND NATO OR EVEN ON ADVANCE CONSULTATION. I BELIEVE THE VISITED WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO TRY TO IMPRESS UPON THE PRIME MINISTER THE IMPORTANCE TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE--TO NORTH AMERICAN DEFENSE--TO THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE VARIOUS ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS -- AND TO THE MAINTENANCE OF AN ATMOSPHERE OF DETENTE, THAT CANADA NOT MAKE ANY REDUCTION IN ITS ALREADY MODEST DEFENSE EFFORT. PORTER

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